

MISSION: EASTER

by Kimberlee R. Mendoza



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Mission: Easter

An Easter play for children

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

RAY SMITH: Special Agent for the C.I.A. (Christians In Action). Male, age 13-18

WAITER: A waiter at Ray's favorite place to eat. Male or female, age 9-14

QUIRKY: An oddball scientist who works for the C.I.A. Male or Female, age 7-14

SALLY: A safari hunter. Female, age 6-9

BRIAN: A paranoid, snotty boy. Male, age 8-10

WORLDLY: Ray's sneaky rival. Male or Female, age 10-18

MINDY: Cool beyond her years little girl. Female, age 4-8

MOTHER: A tired but wise woman. Female, age 25-35

PERSON: A hand-picked audience member wearing an Easter hat. Female, age 20+

EXTRA CHILDREN: All ages

PRODUCTION NOTES

SET

A small, round table sits at Center Stage with two chairs next to it. A backdrop of a cityscape may run the entire length of the stage.

PROPS

Easter eggs; bill tray; tablecloth; sandwich; plate; slip of paper; dollar bills; a bag with a small vial, pill bottles filled with candy including a chewy piece, magnifying glass, a rubber rope, allergy pills, Groucho Marx glasses, and Bible; pad of paper; pen; briefcase; watch; Easter baskets; binoculars; compass; candy; big cardboard Easter candy pictures; paintbrushes; coat hangers fashioned to look like the wire egg dippers that come in Easter egg dye kits; paint buckets; half-painted cardboard eggs; Easter clothes (hats, bonnets, gloves, etc.); big plastic food; dishcloth; note; army helmet; napkin; menu.

COSTUMES

RAY — Black suit, sunglasses

WAITER — White shirt, black tie, black pants, and apron

QUIRKY — White lab coat and glasses

WORLDLY — Bunny costume, big hat, moustache, and black clothes

MOTHER — Easter dress with an apron

CHILDREN — The Easter clothes they are wearing are fine

SPECIAL/SOUND EFFECTS

Smoke, explosion sound, and flashing light. You may use flash paper, a smoke machine, a red flashing light behind the backdrop, or a taped explosion sound. Any two of those would suffice. You will also need some charcoal for the waiter to rub on his face behind the wall, as if he were blackened from the explosion.

Optional: A slide show of the Crucifixion would be a nice touch while Mother is quoting John 3:16.

Consider having the children in your Sunday school make the props as part of an art project. The kids may bring out the different props for each scene.

You may also wish to add songs throughout the play.

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1 *(RAY sits eating a sandwich at a table placed at Center Stage and*
 2 *covered by a tablecloth. WAITER enters and hands RAY an Easter*
 3 *egg on a “bill tray.” WAITER walks away.)*

4

5 **RAY: Um, thanks. Usually they just give me a mint.** *(Looks*
 6 *around, shakes egg, holds it up to his ear, and then slowly opens it.*
 7 *A small piece of paper falls out and he begins to read it.)* **Your**
 8 **mission, should you choose to accept it, and you don’t**
 9 **really have a choice, because you don’t want to get fired ...**
 10 *(RAY looks at the audience and rolls his eyes)* **is to find out the**
 11 **true meaning of Easter. This message will self-destruct in**
 12 **five seconds.** *(RAY puts the paper back in the egg and tosses it*
 13 *over the wall. An explosion sound and possibly a flash of light*
 14 *occur. The WAITER steps around the wall, black from the smoke.)*

15 **WAITER: (Weakly) Will that be all, sir?**

16 **RAY: Yes, thank you.** *(He tosses a few dollars on the table.)* **Keep the**
 17 **change.**

18 **WAITER: Thank you, sir.** *(RAY steps in front of the table, and the*
 19 *tablecloth is removed. RAY begins talking to the audience.)*

20 **RAY: Oh, hello there. You must be the new recruits to the**
 21 **C.I.A. — that is, Christians In Action, for those of you who**
 22 **didn’t read your manual. I am Ray Smith, super spy. There**
 23 **isn’t a case I haven’t cracked in over two years. OK, I know**
 24 **you expected me to say a higher number, but look at me.**
 25 **Do I look like someone who has been around that long?**
 26 **Yes, the C.I.A. enlists people of all ages. As a matter of fact,**
 27 **my brother was only four years old when he came into the**
 28 **agency. The most important rule is remembering the “A” —**
 29 **Action. We are here not only to discover truth, but also to**
 30 **act on it. Without action, we would just be**
 31 **C.I. — and the Bible says, “Faith without action is dead.” So**
 32 **there you have it. Welcome to the C.I.A. Now if you’ll excuse**
 33 **me, I must be getting to my latest case.** *(QUIRKY steps out*
 34 *with a bag full of gadgets.)*

35 **QUIRKY: Aw, Ray. I’m so glad to see you’re still here. I have all**

1 of the equipment you're going to need for your next
2 mission.

3 **RAY:** I hope your gadgets are insured this time, Quirky. Last
4 time they almost finished me off.

5 **QUIRKY:** Don't worry about a thing, Ray. I've taken extra
6 precautions to make sure you don't explode or fall down a
7 mountain ... this time.

8 **RAY:** Glad to hear it. Now, what do you have for me? (*QUIRKY*
9 *hands him a small vial.*)

10 **QUIRKY:** OK, you know how every year at Easter there's one
11 egg that isn't found until you start to smell something in
12 July?

13 **RAY:** I guess so.

14 **QUIRKY:** Well, this vial of liquid is what I like to call "Smell
15 Increaser." One drop of this under your nose, and you'll be
16 able to smell a flea on a cat in New York City. But don't use
17 too much of it, or you won't be able to eat for a week. (*Pause*)
18 I know, because I kind of overdid it in the testing phase.

19 **RAY:** Got it. Go lightly. (*RAY places a small amount of the liquid*
20 *under his nose and flinches. He hands the bottle back to QUIRKY.*)
21 What else do you have for me?

22 **QUIRKY:** Glad you asked. OK. You know how your mom always
23 tells you to not eat too much candy, but then you do and
24 you ultimately get sick?

25 **RAY:** Yeah ...

26 **QUIRKY:** Well, I have developed a candy dissolver. Just chew
27 this ten minutes before digesting candy, and you can eat all
28 you want. (*Shows RAY a chewy piece of candy.*)

29 **RAY:** You should market this stuff, Quirky.

30 **QUIRKY:** Are you kidding? Every mom in America would want
31 to give me a timeout. I don't need the pressure.

32 **RAY:** OK. Is that all?

33 **QUIRKY:** Well, I have (*Pulling out each item in turn*) a special
34 magnifying glass, a rubber rope, allergy pills, a disguise,
35 and the Bible, of course.

1 RAY: Wonderful.

2 QUIRKY: And put this communicator on. *(He hands RAY the*
 3 *watch and RAY puts it on.)* There is one thing you should
 4 know. Unfortunately, the receiver is broken, so you will
 5 only be able to leave a message with the Commander, but
 6 you will not be able to receive any messages.

7 RAY: I think I kind of like that.

8 QUIRKY: If we need you, we'll get a message to you somehow.

9 RAY: Hmmmm ... *(RAY takes the bag.)*

10 QUIRKY: Good luck, Ray.

11 RAY: Never luck. Always "Go with God."

12 QUIRKY: Yes, yes ... Go with God, my friend! *(Pause)* Oh, and
 13 Ray?

14 RAY: Yes, Quirky?

15 QUIRKY: Watch out, Agent Smith. There is an enemy to the
 16 agency that is trying to hide truth. If he discovers your
 17 mission, you may run into him along the way. *(RAY nods.*
 18 *QUIRKY exits and RAY starts walking to Stage Right.)*

19 RAY: OK, when I think of Easter, I think of eggs and bunnies. I
 20 guess the best place to start would be to interrogate the Big
 21 E. That's right, the Easter Bunny — Peter Cottontail
 22 himself. I'd better put on my disguise first. *(RAY turns*
 23 *around just as WORDLY jets past him. RAY does a double take,*
 24 *shrugs his shoulders, and puts on Groucho Marx nose glasses.)*
 25 There, ready to go. *(As RAY walks to the right, a group of KIDS*
 26 *carrying baskets enter as if looking for eggs. RAY crosses to*
 27 *SALLY.)* Well, hello there. May I ask what you are doing?

28 SALLY: Hunting, of course.

29 RAY: *(Writes it down.)* Right. And what do you expect to find on
 30 your hunt?

31 SALLY: Easter eggs.

32 RAY: Ah, now we're getting somewhere. Where there are eggs,
 33 there is a bunny close by. *(He takes out his magnifying glass*
 34 *and begins looking at the ground.)*

35 SALLY: What are you doing?

1 **RAY:** That is classified information. *(Pause)* So tell me, why do
2 you hunt eggs? Is that the true meaning of Easter?

3 **SALLY:** I don't know, it's just something I do every Easter. But
4 my family does lots of other things at Easter, too. *(He pulls*
5 *out pad of paper and pen and writes some notes.)*

6 **RAY:** I see. What other things do you do?

7 **SALLY:** Eat candy, dye eggs, and wear a fancy bonnet with a
8 pretty new dress. *(Pause)* Um, eat a big dinner and go to
9 church. Lots of things. So I don't think hunting eggs is the
10 *true meaning of Easter.*

11 **RAY:** Fascinating. Thank you. You've been most helpful. *(Pause)*
12 Now, if you'll tell me where the Big E is, I'll let you finish
13 your hunt.

14 **SALLY:** The Big E?

15 **RAY:** The Easter Bunny.

16 **SALLY:** Oh. Well, if the eggs are hidden, he's long gone.

17 **RAY:** Right.

18 **SALLY:** But I did see him at the mall last week.

19 **RAY:** The mall. Good one. Thank you. *(SALLY nods and skips*
20 *away. The KIDS slowly leave the stage.)* OK, she said candy,
21 colored eggs, clothes, food, and church. *(WORLDLY peeks*
22 *around the corner and RAY does another double take. He rubs his*
23 *eyes.)* I wonder what Quirky put in that smell increaser.
24 *(Pauses, then back to his list.)* I think I'd better start with
25 candy. *(RAY crosses to Stage Left as some KIDS run On-stage*
26 *emptying their baskets full of candy on the floor while other KIDS*
27 *have big versions of Easter candy cut out of cardboard or are*
28 *dressed in candy costumes.)* I guess I'd better take a candy
29 dissolver. *(He chews the pill and steps towards BRIAN.)* Hi
30 there. *(He looks at BRIAN, who guards his candy skeptically.)*

31 **BRIAN:** You aren't here to take my candy, are you?

32 **RAY:** Why do you say that?

33 **BRIAN:** You look scary. *(RAY touches his face and removes the*
34 *glasses.)*

35 **RAY:** Sorry, I was in a disguise. Is this better?

- 1 **BRIAN:** No, you still look scary.
- 2 **RAY:** Sorry, but the good Lord gave me this face.
- 3 **BRIAN:** I'm sorry too. *(Pause)* Promise you won't take my candy?
- 4 **RAY:** I'm not going to take your candy. I'm looking for the true
5 meaning of Easter. Do you think it's candy?
- 6 **BRIAN:** I don't know. We get candy at Halloween, *(Or substitute*
7 *"at our Harvest Party")* Valentine's Day, and Christmas, too.
8 Candy can't be the meaning of all those holidays, right?
- 9 **RAY:** Good point. I guess I'll keep looking.
- 10 **BRIAN:** Good, because I saw you eyeing my Peeps, and those
11 are my favorite.
- 12 **RAY:** Enjoy your candy, kid. *(BRIAN scoops up his candy and all the*
13 *kids slowly exit as RAY returns to Center Stage.)* Well, let's see. It
14 wasn't egg hunts or candy. What is next on my list?
15 Coloring Easter eggs. That sounds promising. After all,
16 painting is an art form, and art always has meaning. *(RAY*
17 *begins crossing Stage Left as some kids come in with oversized eggs*
18 *and paint brushes or a huge wire egg dipper.)*
- 19 **MINDY:** Yo, Mister, you need help?
- 20 **RAY:** No, I wouldn't want to get egg dye on my clothes.
- 21 **MINDY:** That's too bad, 'cause it's cool.
- 22 **RAY:** It seems so. *(Pause as he crosses to her.)* Can you tell me if
23 coloring eggs is the true meaning of Easter? *(MINDY is*
24 *about to open her mouth when WORLDLY hops in dressed as the*
25 *Easter Bunny.)*
- 26 **WORLDLY:** Of course it is.
- 27 **RAY:** And you are?
- 28 **WORLDLY:** Duh! I'm the Easter Bunny.
- 29 **RAY:** Oh, great. I've been meaning to have a word with you. Do
30 you have a minute?
- 31 **WORLDLY:** Easter is over. I have lots of minutes.
- 32 **RAY:** So, what is the true meaning of Easter, Mr. E?
- 33 **WORLDLY:** Why, me, of course.
- 34 **RAY:** Really? And why is that?
- 35 **WORLDLY:** Because I make the kids happy. *(He squeezes*

- 1 MINDY's cheek.) See how happy she is?
- 2 RAY: So happiness is important?
- 3 WORLDLY: Of course! It's the most important thing. If I'm not
- 4 happy, then I'm not doing it. Life is about making ourselves
- 5 happy.
- 6 RAY: That doesn't line up with truth, Mr. Bunny.
- 7 WORLDLY: Of course it does.
- 8 RAY: No, life is about making God happy. Then we find joy in all
- 9 things, because he lives in us.
- 10 WORLDLY: Nonsense.
- 11 RAY: What is your real name?
- 12 WORLDLY: Mr. Easter Bunny.
- 13 RAY: I don't think so. I'm onto you, little fuzzy man, and when I
- 14 find out who you are, the truth will be found too.
- 15 (WORLDLY hops away, stumbling as he exits.)
- 16 MINDY: Yeah, he wasn't the Big E.
- 17 RAY: How do you know?
- 18 MINDY: I'm smart. (MINDY and the other kids exit with their eggs.)
- 19 RAY: Well, if Easter isn't about egg hunts, candy, or coloring
- 20 eggs, it must be the clothes. I mean, why else would people
- 21 dress like they do? (RAY exits the platform and walks into the
- 22 audience, looking for someone who is wearing an Easter bonnet.
- 23 Note: This person can be staged or random, since their answers
- 24 won't really matter.)
- 25 RAY: Excuse me, but I am doing an investigation on Easter, and
- 26 I would really like to know — why you are wearing that
- 27 hat?
- 28 PERSON: Because I like it.
- 29 RAY: I see. And why do you suppose other women wear theirs?
- 30 PERSON: Because they like it?
- 31 RAY: Interesting. And do you feel that by wearing that clothing,
- 32 you have found the true meaning of Easter?
- 33 PERSON: No.
- 34 RAY: So you're telling me that clothes aren't the meaning of
- 35 Easter?



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